

**Amendments to the Claims**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-12. (Cancelled)

13. (New) An ink feeding rate control method comprising the steps of:

controlling an ink feeding rate for each of first areas aligned in a printing direction and arranged in correspondence with respective ink keys of an ink feeder in a printing machine, by comparing measurement information and reference information of color patches in each first area of respective color used in the printing machine, the color patches printed on a printing paper and aligned in a direction perpendicular to the printing direction;

determining a first average of proportions of image areas to the respective first areas for each color;

determining a second average of proportions of image areas to respective second areas for each color, the second areas aligned in the printing direction and arranged in correspondence with the respective color patches; and

correcting one of the reference information and the measurement information regarding the color patches in each first area based on the first and second averages for each color.

14. (New) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 13, wherein the measurement information of the color patches comprises densities of the color patches, and the reference information comprises reference densities.

15. (New) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 13, wherein one of the reference information and the measurement information is corrected by using a correction factor obtained empirically.

16. (New) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 15, wherein a corrected value of one of the reference information and the measurement information is stored from time to time, one of the reference information and the measurement information being corrected in time of subsequent printing processes by using the corrected value stored.

17. (New) An ink feeding rate control method for a printing machine having an image recorder for recording images on a printing plate based on image data, comprising the steps according to claim 13.

18. (New) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 17, wherein the measurement information of the color patches comprises densities of the color patches, and the reference information comprises reference densities.

19. (New) An ink feeding rate control method comprising the steps of:  
controlling an ink feeding rate for each of first areas aligned in a printing direction and arranged in correspondence with respective ink keys of an ink feeder in a printing machine, based on measurement information on color patches printed on a printing paper and aligned in a direction perpendicular to the printing direction,

determining a first average of proportions of image areas to the respective first areas for each color;

determining a second average of proportions of image areas to respective second areas for each color, the second areas aligned in the printing direction and arranged in correspondence with the respective color patches; and

correcting the measurement information regarding the color patches in each first area based on the first and second averages for each color.

20. (New) An ink feeding rate control method as defined in claim 19, wherein the measurement information of the color patches comprises densities of said color patches.

21. (New) A data correcting method for controlling a printing machine based on comparison of measurement information and reference information of color patches of respective color in each of first areas, the first areas aligned in a printing direction and arranged in correspondence with respective ink keys of an ink feeder in the printing machine, the color patches printed on a printing paper and aligned in a direction perpendicular to the printing direction, comprising the steps of:

determining a first average of proportions of image areas to the respective first areas for each color;

determining a second average of proportions of image areas to respective second areas for each color, the second areas aligned in the printing direction and arranged in correspondence with the respective color patches; and

correcting one of the reference information and the measurement information regarding the color patches in each first area based on the first and second averages for each color.

22. (New) A data correcting method as defined in claim 21, wherein the measurement information on the color patches comprises densities of the color patches, and the reference information comprises reference densities.

23. (New) A data correcting method as defined in claim 21, wherein the measurement information and the reference information are used for at least one of ink feeding rate control and dampening water feeding rate control in the printing machine.

24. (New) A data correcting method as defined in claim 22, wherein the measurement information and the reference information are used for at least one of ink feeding rate control and dampening water feeding rate control in the printing machine.